

Colombo April 8.th 1816

Dear Brother & Sister

On the opportunity of presenting to our letters to Calcutta to the care of our kind Capt. & Super-cargo I can but send you a continuation to my journal which they have in their possession to carry to you - Nothing very special has occurred since I closed that journal - I can yet speak of distinguished mercy - Every circumstance relative to our Mission is ordered according to our most sanguine hopes. The Lord seems to be trying us by his mercies - May we not be guilty of abusing his mercies so far as to provoke his chastising rod - My health suffers no injury from this climate, but is growing better every day - This is the hottest season of the year here on this Island - The sun is directly over our heads at noon, yet I do not suffer more from the heat, unless I expose myself to the rays of the sun in the heat of the day than I have suffered in my native land - I avoid walking out much excepting in the morning & evening - wh. are here very pleasant indeed -

The streets within the Fort are dry - handsome & beautifully shaded & afford very agreeable walks, & the plains & groves without the Fort are delightful & refreshing in the morn. & eve

Indeed I was never in a pleasanter town than this - The most delicious fruits here are the pineapple orange & Plantain or Banana wh. are very plenty - There are a variety of other fruits - The cocoa nut grows here in abundance - God is abundant in his goodness to this people - but they are as distinguished in their ingratitude & rebellion agst. him - The moral degradation & misery of this people is beyond all description - Even the English, who are generally attached to the Military or Civil departments are in general very indifferently indifferent to religion - & the natives are ignorant of God & Christ & the blessed way of salvation thro' Christ - altho a great body of them will tell you they are christians - Many of them speak a little English, but they almost all speak a corrupt kind of Portuguese - I long to be able to preach & to talk to these unhappy Pagans

They seem to have but very little idea of right & wrong - they unblushingly tell a lie & stand to it, & if you

detect them they manifest no shame at all for ^{it},
& if they can deceive any one or take the advantage they
will laugh in his face - How much they need to have
the pure & holy principles of the Religion of Christ im-
pressed on their hearts - There is one Baptist missionary
~~here~~ (Rev Mr Chater) & two Methodist (Rev Messrs Flaxman
& Blough) with whom ^{we} are very intimate, & often preach
for them - We are very pleasantly situated for a few
months, but we have not yet determined upon
a station to settle in - Where we shall finally go
is yet uncertain. Perhaps we may go a part
of us at least to the north of this Island (viz.)
to Jaffna or near there - Perhaps a part or
all of us to Bombay, where our other brethren
are & to the Continent. We wait to hear from
our brethren at Bombay - We hope & trust the
Lord will direct - Should I go to Jaffna I must
must study the Malabar language - If I go to
Bombay I must study the Marhatta. If I go
to Cochin I must study the Malayalam - I long
to have my destination fixed so that I can go
to the place of labour & begin my work -

I bear the hot climate uncommonly
well - I rise at five A.M. - walk from six to seven
breakfast at eight - dine at two & take tea at
half past six - This is nearly new Eng^l habits - But
here the fashionable people breakfast at nine -
dine at four P.M. - sit at the table till six - then
go into the sitting room take coffee or tea - &
then sup at nine - Thus they spend their whole
time at table eating or in bed - How impor-
tant is it for Christians to improve their time
for God -